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TECHNICAL NOTE

No. 1737

EFFECT OF VARIATION IN DIAMETER AND PITCH OF
RIVETS ON COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF PANELS
WITH Z-SECTION STIFFENERS

PANELS THAT FAIL BY LOCAL BUCKLING AND HAVE

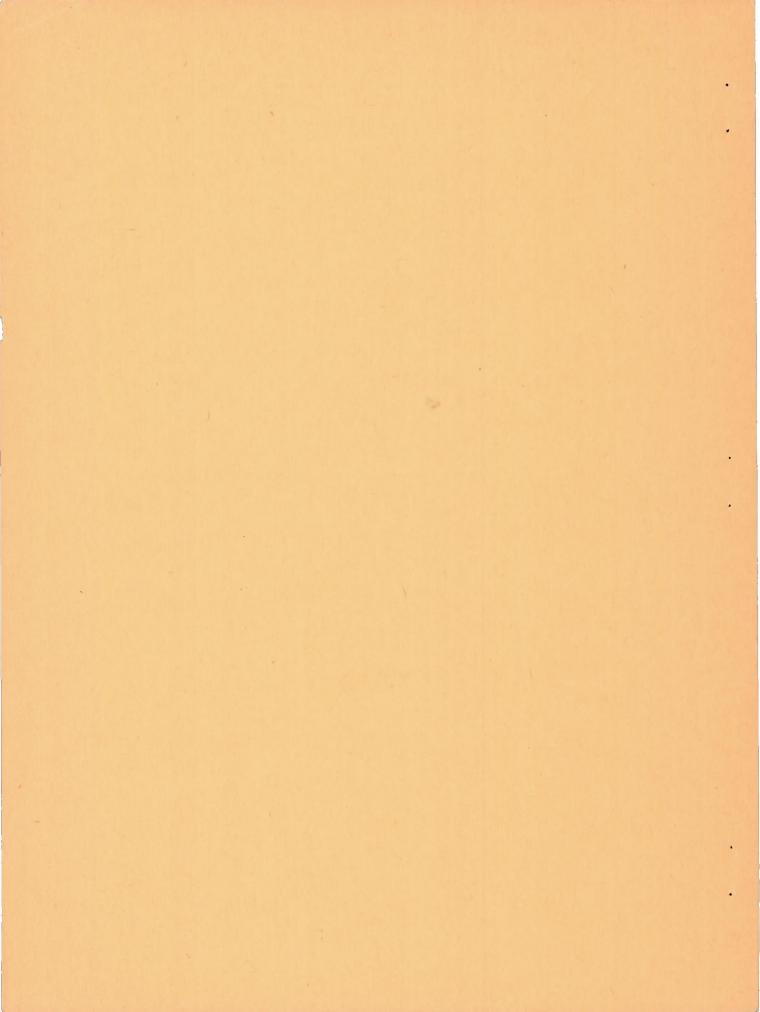
VARIOUS VALUES OF WIDTH-TO-THICKNESS RATIO

FOR THE WEBS OF THE STIFFENERS

By Norris F. Dow and William A. Hickman
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Langley Field, Va.

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SUMMARY

An experimental investigation is being conducted to determine the effect of varying the rivet diameter and pitch on the compressive strength of flat 24S-T aluminum-alloy Z-stiffened panels of the type for which design charts are available. The present part of the investigation is concerned with panels which have various values of width-to-thickness ratio of the webs of the stiffeners and have such length that failure is by local buckling. The results show that for these panels, regardless of their stiffener widths, the compressive strengths increased appreciably with either an increase in the diameter of the rivets or a decrease in the pitch of the rivets.

INTRODUCTION

The design and analysis of sheet-stiffener panels for aircraft structures have been the subject of extensive experimental and theoretical investigations, but the determination of the size and pitch of rivets for attaching sheet to stiffener is a problem that has not been adequately solved. In reference 1 charts and procedures are presented for the design of Z-stiffened panels to carry a given intensity of loading at a given panel length. The test data on which these design charts were based, however, were obtained for an arbitrary diameter and pitch of the rivets. An investigation is therefore being conducted in the Langley structures research laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics to determine the effect of a variation in the rivet diameter and pitch on the strength of 24S-T aluminum-alloy panels with longitudinal Z-section stiffeners of the type for which the design charts of reference 1 were prepared.

Four basic variables have been considered in this investigation of the effect of riveting on panel strengths:

- (1) The ratio of stiffener thickness to skin thickness t_W/t_S
- (2) The slenderness ratio L/ρ
- (3) The ratio of stiffener spacing to skin thickness bg/tg
- (4) The ratio of stiffener width to stiffener thickness b_{W}/t_{W} The range of values tested for each variable is given in table 1, which also includes the references in which the data are presented.

The results of varying the ratio of stiffener width to stiffener thickness b_W/t_W are given in the present paper.

SYMBOLS

length of specimen, inches
radius of gyration, inches
slenderness ratio
width of specimen, inches
spacing of stiffeners on sheet, inches
width of attachment flange of stiffeners, inches
width of web of stiffeners, inches
width of outstanding flange of stiffeners, inches
thickness of sheet, inches
thickness of web of stiffener, inches
diameter of rivets, inches
pitch of rivets, inches
depth of countersink for rivets, inches
compressive yield stress for material, ksi
average compressive stress at failing load, ksi
coefficient of end fixity in Euler column formula

P_i compressive load per inch of panel width, kips per inch

R radius of bend

TEST SPECIMENS AND METHOD OF TESTING

For all parts of the investigation. The specimens consisted of 24S-T aluminum-alloy panels having longitudinal Z-section stiffeners as shown in figure 1. The stiffeners were riveted to the sheet with A17S-T flat-head rivets (AN442AD). In all cases the minimum rivet pitch used was equal to three times the rivet diameter. The rivets were driven by the NACA flush-riveting process in which the rivet is inserted with the head opposite the countersunk end of the hole, the shank of the rivet is driven into the cavity formed by the countersink, and the excess material is removed with a milling tool. A countersink angle of 60° was used.

Ultimate compressive loads for the specimens were determined in a hydraulic testing machine having an accuracy of one-half of 1 percent of the load. The ends of the specimens were ground accurately flat and parallel in a special grinder, and the method of alinement in the testing machine was such as to insure a uniform bearing over the ends of the specimens.

For the present part of the investigation. Five width-to-thickness ratios for the stiffeners, corresponding to values of b_W/t_W of 20, 25, 30, 40, and 50, were investigated. (See fig. 2.) Two thicknesses of sheet were used to give two ratios of stiffener thickness to sheet thickness $\left(\frac{t_W}{t_S}\right) = 1.00$ and 0.63. The lengths of the panels were so chosen $\left(\frac{L}{\rho}\right) = 20$ that no column bending failures occurred. The proportions $\frac{b_S}{t_S} = 25$, $\frac{b_A}{t_W} = 9.5$, and $\frac{b_F}{b_W} = 0.4$ were the same for all panels.

The with-grain compressive yield strength σ_{Cy} of the material before forming was found to be as follows: 47.2 ksi (max.), 45.2 ksi (av.), and 44.0 k i (min.).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results are presented in figure 3 and table 2. In figure 3, $\bar{\sigma}_f$, calculated simply as the failing load divided by the cross-sectional area of the panel, is plotted against the ratio of the rivet diameter

to the sum of the thicknesses of sheet and stiffener $\frac{d}{t_S + t_W}$ in order to present the results in a manner similar to that used in references 2, 3, and 4. Figure 3 shows that for all values of t_W/t_S and b_W/t_W investigated the compressive strengths increased with either an increase in the diameter of the rivets or a decrease in the pitch of the rivets.

These results differ from those of reference 5 in which the compressive strength of Z-stiffened shells was found to change very little with rivet spacing when failure occurred by local buckling of the stiffeners. The panel tests described in reference 5, however, covered an entirely different range of proportions from that of the present investigation. In reference 5 the proportions covered were such $\left(\frac{t_W}{t_S} = 2 \text{ or } 3, \frac{b_S}{t_S} = 350\right)$ that the sheet contributed only a small amount to the load-carrying ability of the assembly. Ohanging the rivet pitch over the range investigated therein $\left(\frac{p}{t_S} + t_W\right)$ so that the sheet contributed a negligible load-carrying capacity, would be expected to produce only small changes in panel strength.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Results are presented of an investigation to determine the effect of varying the rivet diameter and pitch on the compressive strength of flat 24S-T aluminum-alloy Z-stiffened panels of the type for which design charts are available. The present part of the investigation is concerned with panels which have various values of width-to-thickness ratio of the webs of the stiffeners and have such length that failure is by local buckling. The results show that for these panels, regardless of their width-to-thickness ratio, the compressive strengths increased appreciably with either an increase in the diameter of the rivets or a decrease in the pitch of the rivets.

Langley Aeronautical Laboratory
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics
Langley Field, Va., September 11, 1948

REFERENCES

- 1. Schuette, Evan H.: Charts for the Minimum-Weight Design of 24S-T Aluminum-Alloy Flat Compression Panels with Longitudinal Z-Section Stiffeners. NACA Rep. No. 827, 1945.
- Dow, Norris F., and Hickman, William A.: Effect of Variation in Diameter and Pitch of Rivets on Compressive Strength of Panels with Z-Section Stiffeners. I - Panels with Close Stiffener Spacing That Fail by Local Buckling. NACA RB No. L5G03, 1945.
- 3. Dow, Norris F., and Hickman, William A.: Effect of Variation in Diameter and Pitch of Rivets on Compressive Strength of Panels with Z-Section Stiffeners. Panels of Various Lengths with Close Stiffener Spacing. NACA TN No. 1421, 1947.
- 4. Dow, Norris F., and Hickman, William A.: Effect of Variation in Diameter and Pitch of Rivets on Compressive Strength of Panels with Z-Section Stiffeners. Panels of Various Stiffener Spacings That Fail by Local Buckling. NACA TN No. 1467, 1947.
- 5. Kromm, A.: Einfluss der Nietteilung auf die Druckfestigkeit versteifter Schalen aus Duralumin. Luftfahrtforschung, Bd. 14, Lfg. 3, March 20, 1937, pp. 116-120.

TABLE 1.- RANGE OF VALUES TESTED FOR EACH

VARIABLE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE

EFFECT OF RIVETING ON PANEL STRENGTH

tw ts	LIρ	bs ts	bw tw	Reference
0.51 .63 .79 1.00 1.25	20	25	20	2
0.63	20 40 70 120	25	20	3
0.63 1.00	20	25 30 35 40 50 60 75	20	4
0.63	20	25	20 25 30 40 50	Present paper

TABLE 2.- NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS SHOWING EFFECTS OF VARYING RIVET PITCH AND RIVET DIAMETER

Diam. of rivets, d (in.)	Depth of countersink, h (in.)	Pitch of rivets, p (in.)	Average stress at failing load,	P ₁ L/~6
t _s = 0.064 in.	; b _S = 1.60 in.; L =	10.40 in.; W = 8	(ksi) .64 in.; bw = 1.28 in.;	$b_{-} = 0.51 \text{ in}$
		= 1.00; $\frac{b_s}{t_s} = 25^a$		
1/16	0.035	3/16 3/8 5/8 15/16	43.050 41.450 536.855 538.380	1.233 1.180 1.013 1.093
		1 5 1 3 1 4	29.300 26.700	.768
3/32	.040	9/32 3/8 5/8 15/16 1 ⁵ / ₁₆	44.800 43.500 53.070 640.035 33.400	1.303 1.245 1.069 1.140
		13/4	30.700	.891
1/8	.050	3/8 5/8 15/16 15 16 14	44.600 b43.735 b41.710 34.750 32.200	1.317 1.227 1.186 .990
5/32	.060	15/32 5/8 15/16 15 16 13	45.000 43.870 40.500 36.100 b33.800	1.318 1.197 1.142 1.032
3/16	.065	9/16 5/8 15/16 15/16	45.340 44.700 40.850 37.600	.973 1.329 1.232 1.160 1.077
		14/4	b33.800	.968
1/4	.065	3/4 15/16 15/6	44.485 44.485 38.900	1.272 1.290 1.104
	bs - 25	14	35.350	1.022

aData for $\frac{b_S}{t_S} = 25$ is from reference 2.

DAverage of two tests.

TABLE 2.- NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Continued

Diam. of rivets, d (in.)	Depth of countersink, h (in.)	Pitch of rivets,	Average stress at failing load,	P ₁ L√√6
			(ksi)	(ksi)
$t_{S} = 0.064 in.$; $b_{g} = 1.60 \text{ in.; } L =$	12.80 in.; W = 8	$8.64 \text{ in.; } b_{W} = 1.60 \text{ in.;}$	$b_{\mathbf{F}} = 0.64 \text{in.}$
	$\frac{t_W}{t_S} =$	1.00; $\frac{b_8}{t_8} = 25$	$\frac{b_W}{t_W} = 25$	
		3/16 3/8	43.300 41.500	1.051
1/16	0.035	3/8	41.500	1.010
1/10	0.035	5/8	38.670	.945
			37.880	.920
		15/16	32.790	.801
		14	26 950	445
		-4	26.850	.665
		9/32	43.290	1.054
		9/32 3/8	42.070	1.031
3/32	.040	5/8 15/16	41.760	1.020
		15/16	39.340	.958
		15/16	34.580	. इमम
		- 3		
		13/4	30.200	.751
		3/8	42.720	1.042
		5/8	42.640	1.042
1/8	.050	15/16	39.140	.953
		15/16	75 070	
			35.970	.876
		13/4	31.920	.795
		15/32	43.610	1.060
5/30	262	5/8 15/16	43.450	1.053
5/32	.060	15/16	40.220	.977
		12/16	36.420	.882
		13/4	33.760	825
		9/16	41.910	1.023
		5/8	42.980	1.048
3/16	.065	15/16	40.950	.996
		15/16	36.510	.878
		13/4		.070
		-4	33.480	.814
The state of		3/4	41.230	1.002
1/4	.065	15/16	40.210	.975
				.,()
		15/16	37.540	.906
		13		
		4	33.310	.810

TABLE 2 .- NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Continued

Diam. of rivets,	Depth of countersink,	Pitch of rivets,	Average stress at failing load,	P ₁ 1/√6
(in.)	(in.)	(in.)	of (ksi)	(ks1)
t _s = 0.064 in	.; b _S = 1.60 in.; L =	15.66 in.; W = 8	.64 in.; bw = 1.92 in.;	
	$\frac{t_W}{t_S}$:	= 1.00; $\frac{b_g}{t_g} = 25$;	$\frac{b_W}{t_W} = 30$	
1/16	0.035	3/16 3/8 5/8 15/16 15/16	39.790 38.810 37.450 35.390 31.830	0.896 .875 .842 .791
		13/4	25.360	.568
3/32	.040	9/32 3/8 5/8 15/16 15/6	39.040 39.250 38.580 37.470 34.640	.880 .890 .872 .841
		13/4	29.290	.658
1/8	.050	3/8 5/8 15/16 15/16	39.700 38.970 37.990 34.940	.901 .878 .849
		13/4	30.180	.676
5/32	.060	15/32 5/8 15/16 15 16 14	39.320 39.190 37.850 36.730 31.420	.887 .887 .847
3/16	.065	9/16 5/8 15/16 15 16 13	39.390 39.250 38.020 37.110	.701 .865 .888 .854 .838
1/4	.065	3/4 15/16	37.950 37.530	.856
		1 5 16 1 3	36.830 33.140	.830 .746

TABLE 2.- NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Continued

Diam. of rivets, d (in.)	Depth of countersink h (in.)	Pitch of rivets, p (in.)	Average stress at failing load,	P ₁ L/√6
t _s = 0.064 in	.; b _S = 1.60 in.; L =		(ks1) 8.64 in.; b _W = 2.56 in.	(ks1) ; b _p = 1.02 in.;
	$\frac{t_W}{t_S}$	= 1.00; $\frac{b_8}{t_8}$ = 25	;	
1/16	0.035	3/16 3/8 5/8 15/16	30.940 29.930 28.830 26.530	0.609 .589 .567 .518
		15 16 14	25.170 23.640	.496
3/32	.040	9/32 3/8 5/8 15/16	31.040 31.110 30.370 28.180	.638 .623 .598 .554
		1 56 1 3	26.870 25.060	.530 .502
1/8	.050	3/8 5/8 15/16 15/16	31.900 30.490 29.040 27.100	.636 .602 .568
		14	25.900	.524
5/32	.060	15/32 5/8 15/16	31.780 31.880 29.780	.638 .624 .596
		1 5 6 1 3	29.300 26.470	.579 .529
3/16	.065	9/16 5/8 15/16	31.990 31.150 30.770	,628 .613 .607
		1 5 1 <u>3</u>	28.840 26.170	.568 .514
1/4	.065	3/4 15/16	31.880 30.490	.642 .598
		1 5 1 4	29.220 27.110	.576 .530

TABLE 2. - NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Continued

Diam. of	Depth of	Pitch of	Average stress	P ₁ L/√c			
rivets,	countersink	rivets,	at failing load,	L/√c			
(in.)	(in.)	(in.)	(ks1)	(ksi)			
t _s = 0.064 in.	$t_S = 0.064 \text{ in.}$; $b_S = 1.60 \text{ in.}$; $L = 26.04 \text{ in.}$; $W = 8.64 \text{ in.}$; $b_W = 3.20 \text{ in.}$; $b_F = 1.28 \text{ in.}$;						
	t _S	= 1.00; $\frac{b_S}{t_S}$ = 25;	$; \frac{b_W}{t_W} = 50$				
1/16	0.035	3/16 3/8 5/8 15/16	27.660 26.860 25.390 23.160	0.520 .503 .474 .434			
		15/16	22.320	.421			
		14	19.510	.368			
3/32	.040	9/32 3/8 5/8 15/16 15/16 14	27.980 27.560 27.130 25.190 23.740	.536 .525 .510 .472 .446			
		14	21.030	.396			
1/8	.050	3/8 5/8 15/16 15/16 14	27.720 27.480 26.530 25.200 21.690	.521 .516 .503 .475 .409			
5/32	.060	15/32 5/8 15/16 15 16 14	28.230 28.400 27.380 25.780 23.000	.542 .544 .515 .485			
3/16	.065	9/16 5/8 15/16 1 16 1 4	28.060 27.540 26.830 25.560	.527 .517 .502 .480 .437			
1/4	.065	3/4 15/16	28.010 27.310	.528 .508			
		116	26.440	.496			
		14	24.340	.460			

TABLE 2.- NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Continued

Diam. of rivets,	Depth of countersink	Pitch of rivets,	Average stress at failing load,	P ₁ 1./-√c
(in.)	h (in.)	(in.)	σ _f (ksi)	(ksi)
t _S = 0.102 in	.; b _S = 2.55 in.; L =	9.44 in.; W = 13	3.39 in.; b _W = 1.28 in.	$b_F = 0.51 in.$
	t _W	= 0.63; $\frac{b_S}{t_S} = 25^6$	$a_{t} = b_{W} = 20$	
3/32	0.050	9/32 9/16 7/8 17 32 1 <u>19</u>	42.300 39.300 38.170	1.412 1.288 1.218
3/ 32	0.000	119	35.400	1.158
		2	34.500 30.000	1.129
1/8	.060	3/8 9/16 7/8 1 7 2	43.800 40.400 39.700 37.800	1.445 1.321 1.263
		1 <u>19</u> 32 2	35.500 30.240	1.167
		15/32 9/16 7/8	b43.590 b42.335 41.050	1.431 1.388 1.310
5/32	.070	17/32	37.850	1.236
		1 19 32 2	35.750 31.800	1.168
		9/16 7/8	^b 45.150 ^e 41.150	1.451 1.327
3/16	.080	17/32	38.800	1.263
		1 <u>19</u> 2	38.150 31.900	1.253
		3/4 7/8	44.050 b43.000	1.471
1/4	.090	17/32	40.700	1.329
		1 19/32	39.800	1.307
		2	34.100	1.120

 a_{Data} for $\frac{b_{\text{S}}}{t_{\text{S}}}$ = 25 is from reference 2.



bAverage of two tests.

CAverage of three tests.

TABLE 2.- NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Continued

Diam. of rivets, d (in.)	Depth of countersink h (in.)	Pitch of rivets, p (in.)	Average stress at failing load, σ_f (ksi)	P ₁ L/√6 (ks1)
t _S = 0.102 in		11.64 in.; W = 0.63 ; $\frac{b_S}{t_S} = 25$	13.39 in.; $b_W = 1.60$ in. ; $\frac{b_W}{t_W} = 25$; bp = 0.64 in.;
3/32	0.050	9/32 9/16 7/8 1 7 32 1 <u>19</u> 2	42.800 40.580 39.100 36.210 35.480 29.890	1.106 1.049 .990 .938
1/8	.060	3/8 9/16 7/8 1 7 1 32 1 19 2	42.650 41.910 40.190 39.060 36.500 34.150	1.102 1.078 1.034 1.005
5/32	.070	15/32 9/16 7/8 1 7 2 1 3 2 2	43.580 43.120 40.550 40.510 37.470 33.800	1.128 1.118 1.033 1.051 .
3/16	.080	9/16 7/8 1 7 1 32 1 19 2	42.170 40.340 39.780 37.390 33.850	1.059 1.041 1.030 .958 .872
1/4	.090	3/4 7/8 1 7 2 1 19 2	42.960 41.890 40.560 37.420 34.380	1.123 1.080 1.049 .967 .899

TABLE 2.- NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Continued

Diam. of rivets, d (1n.)	Depth of countersink h (in.)	Pitch of rivets, p (in.)	Average stress at failing load, of (ksi)	P ₁ L/ √c (ks1)
t _S = 0.102 in		= 14.52 in.; W = 1 = 0.63; $\frac{b_8}{t_8}$ = 25;	13.39 in.; $b_W = 1.92$ in. $\frac{b_W}{t_W} = 30$; b _F = 0.77 in.;
3/32	0.050	9/32 9/16 7/8 1 <u>7</u> 1 <u>32</u> 1 <u>32</u> 2	39.410 37.690 36.090 35.060 32.850 30.400	0.900 .841 .800 .778 .733
1/8	.060	3/8 9/16 7/8 1 7 1 32 1 <u>9</u> 1 <u>32</u>	39.800 38.960 37.780 36.000 33.960 33.460	.887 .874 .845 .805 .7 5 4 .742
5/32	.070	15/32 9/16 7/8 1-7 1-7 1-7 2 2	39.970 39.110 37.850 37.860 35.990 33.290	.888 .868 .836 .845 .803 .753
3/16	.080	9/16 7/8 1 <u>7</u> 32 1 <u>32</u> 2	38.210 37.910 37.070 36.080 33.290	.838 .841 .829 .803
1/4	.090	3/4 7/8 1 7 32 1 32 2	39.840 39.400 38.220 36.570 33.930	.883 .871 .845 .814 .754

TABLE 2. - NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Continued

Diam. of rivets, d (in.)	Depth of countersink h (in.)	Pitch of rivets, p (in.)	Average stress at failing load, $\overline{\sigma_f}$ (ks1)	P ₁ L/√c (ksi)
tg = 0.102 in		= 20.00 in.; W = $\frac{b_8}{t_8} = 25$	13.39 in.; $b_W = 2.56$ in. $\frac{b_W}{t_W} = 40$; b _F = 1.02 in.;
3/32	0.050	9/32 9/16 7/8 1 7 32 132 2	32.850 30.840 28.810 28.010	0.601 .565 .524
		1 <u>19</u> 1 <u>32</u> 2	26.500 25.700	.508 .487 .474
1/8	.060	3/8 9/16 7/8	32.910 32.850 30.500	.602 .597 .558
		1 7 32 1 <u>19</u> 2	29.580 27.960 26.610	.543 .507 .486
5/32	.070	15/32 9/16 7/8	32.820 32.750 31.610	.59 6 .593 .577
		$1\frac{7}{32}$ $1\frac{19}{32}$	30.560 29.110	.560
2/26		9/16 7/8	28.080 33.440 32.140	.517 .616 .588
3/16	.080	$1\frac{7}{32}$ $1\frac{19}{32}$	30.920 29.510	.564
	7-7-	3/4 7/8	27.930 33.110 33.380	.507 .602 .614
1/4	.090	$1\frac{7}{32}$ $1\frac{19}{32}$	32.110 31.130	.586
		2	30.270	.556

TABLE 2. - NOMINAL DIMENSIONS OF Z-STIFFENED PANELS AND TEST RESULTS - Concluded

Diam. of rivets, d (in.)	Depth of countersink h (ir.)	Pitch of rivets, p (in.)	Average stress at failing load, $ \frac{\sigma_f}{(ks1)} $ 13.39 in.; $b_W = 3.20$ in	P_{1} L/\sqrt{c} (ksi) $\vdots b_{p} = 1.25 in.;$
ts = 0.102 111		$\frac{1}{t} = 0.63; \frac{b_8}{t_8} = 2$		
3/32	0.050	9/32 9/16 7/8 1 7 32 1 <u>32</u> 2	29.500 27.880 25.590 23.540 22.290 21.670	0.474 .444 .405 .327 .354 .343
1/8	.060	3/8 9/16 7/8 1 7 32 1 19 2	30.170 29.190 27.220 26.750 24.000 23.450	.481 .465 .432 .425 .378
5/32	.070	$\frac{15/32}{9/16}$ $\frac{9/16}{7/8}$ $1\frac{7}{32}$ $1\frac{19}{32}$ 2	30.170 29.820 29.000 27.110 25. 670 24.600	.479 .474 .462 .433 .409 .394
3/16	.080	9/16 7/8 1 7 32 1 19 2	29.350 28.880 27.650 26.070 24.650	.466 .458 .441 .415 .393
1/4	.090	3/4 7/8 1 7 2 1 19 2	31.380 29.520 29.230 27.450 26.640	.502 .462 .468 .434 .427

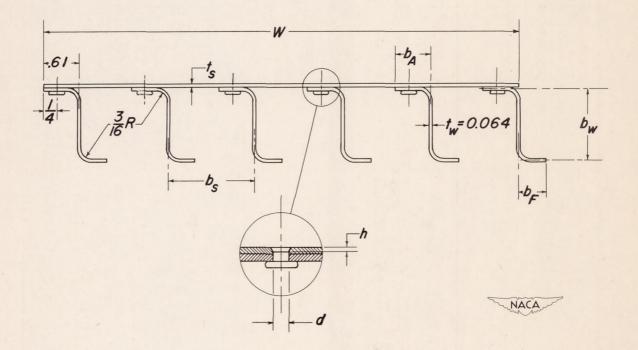
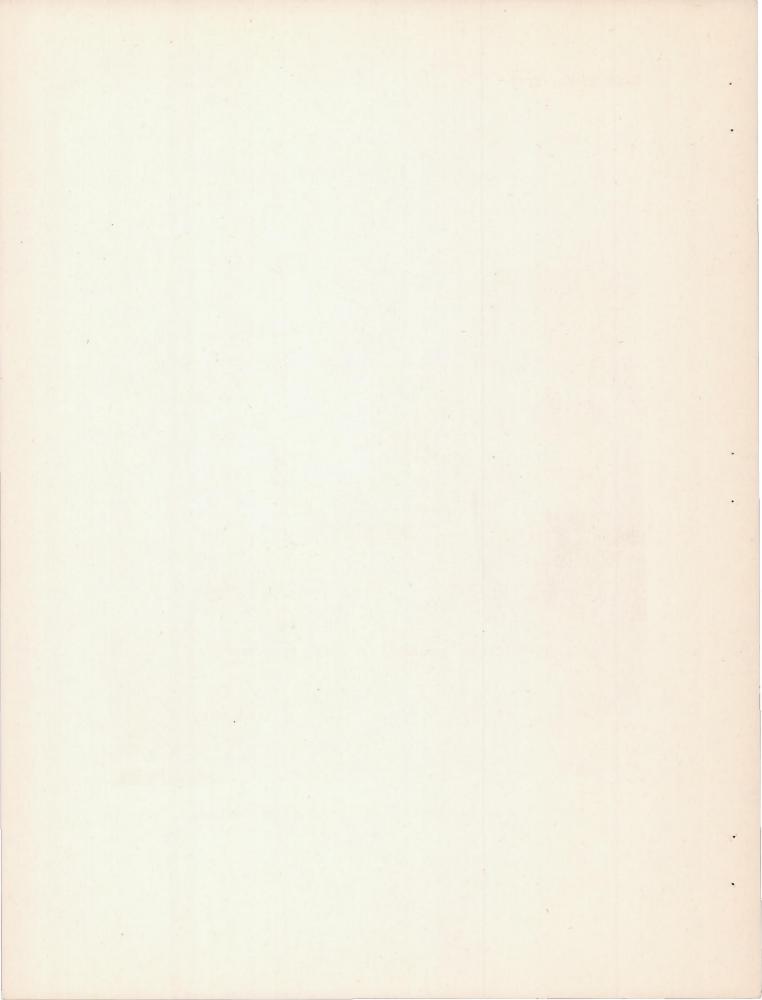


Figure I.- Cross section of test specimens.



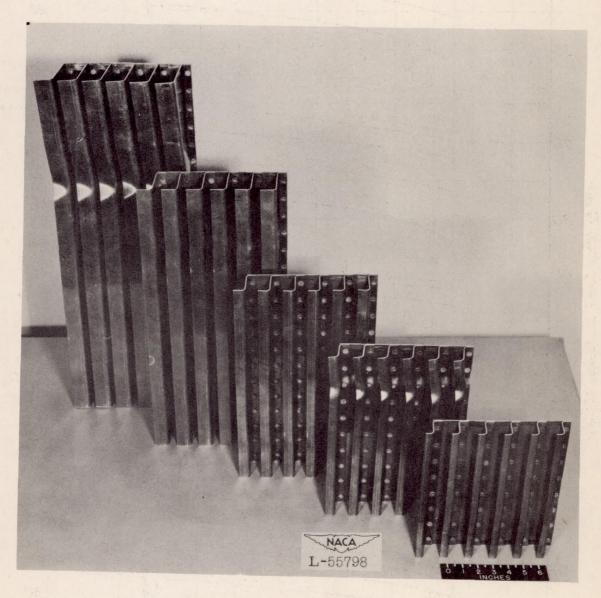


Figure 2.- Typical specimens after failure.

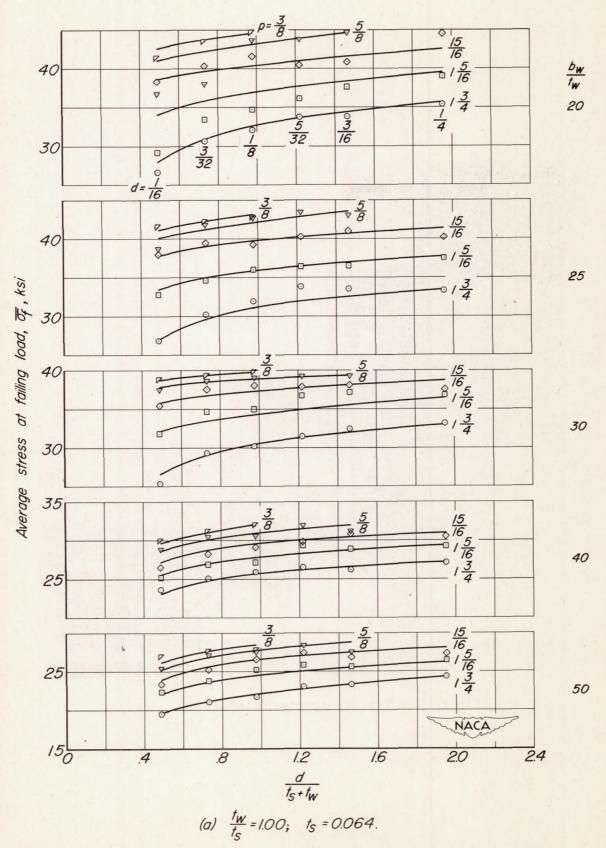


Figure 3.-Variation in compressive strength of panels with rivet diameter.

